

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
EA-12 FRB-01 INR-10 IO-14 NEA-10 NSAE-00 ICA-20
OPIC-06 SP-02 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 AGRE-00
OMB-01 SS-15 HEW-06 FTC-01 /130 W
-----116163 130211Z /23

R 121526Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4676

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USOECD

PASS HEW FOR CAVAGNARO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ECSM, OECD
SUBJECT: MEETING OF COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER POLICY,
JULY 3-4, 1978

SUMMARY - THE OECD COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER POLICY (CCP)
HELD ITS SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING JULY 3-4. NUMBER OF
DELEGATIONS ATTENDING WAS UNUSUALLY HIGH, SHOWING CON-
TINUING INTEREST IN THIS AREA. COMMITTEE REVIEWED
PRESENT AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES OF WORKING PARTY 3
(PRODUCT SAFETY) AND WP-5 (UNDESIRABLE MARKETING PRAC-
TICES), CONSIDERED PROPOSALS REGARDING INFORMATION
LABELING, TOURISM, AND ENERGY CONSERVATION ISSUES,
AND RECEIVED ANNUAL REPORTS FROM 21 MEMBER COUNTRIES
ON CONSUMER POLICY DEVELOPMENTS. USDEL TO CCP WAS
HEADED BY C. R. CAVAGNARO, OFFICE OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS/
DHEW, MR. VITALE OF FTC (U.S. REP TO WP-5), AND DONN
DEARING, USTS/PARIS (U.S. REP TO JULY 5-6 TOURISM
POLICY COMMITTEE). END SUMMARY

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1. CCP EXPRESSED CONTINUED SUPPORT OF WP-3 ACTIVITIES
AND DEVELOPMENT OF ITS REPORT ON ACCIDENT SEVERITY
RATING SYSTEMS. U.S. MATERIALS AND PREPARATION OF DRAFT
REPORT WAS ACKNOWLEDGED. USDEL ALSO GAVE VERBAL
REPORT ON CPSC TRIS BAN AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO EXPORTS.
(SCOPE OF BAN HAD BEEN UNCLEAR TO DELEGATES; ALL THEIR
IMMEDIATE QUESTIONS WERE ANSWERED.) NEXT MEETING OF

WP-3 IS OCTOBER 9-10. CCP ALSO APPROVED WP-5 REPORT ON UNDESIRABLE MARKETING PRACTICES ASSOCIATED WITH MAIL ORDER AND OTHER DISTANT SELLING METHODS (CCP(78)1) AND RECOMMENDED PRINTING AND DERESTRICTION. (WP-5 MET JULY 5-6 TO REVIEW AND MAKE EXTENSIVE REVISIONS IN DRAFT DOCUMENT ON BARGAIN OFFER CLAIMS. NEXT MEETING OF WP-5 SCHEDULED OCTOBER 11-12.)

2. CCP DECIDED TO ESTABLISH A NEW WORKING PARTY ON INFORMATIVE LABELING SYSTEMS TO REVIEW VOLUNTARY AND MANDATORY LABELING PROGRAMS IN MEMBER COUNTRIES. USDEL INDICATED SUPPORT AND INTENT TO COOPERATE IN STUDY BUT RESERVED DIRECT PARTICIPATION SINCE U.S. INFORMATION CAN BE SUPPLIED DIRECTLY TO SECRETARIAT. U.S. URGED WORKING PARTY BE ESTABLISHED FOR TWO-YEAR PERIOD.

3. IN OTHER AREAS THE COMMITTEE:

A. REVIEWED A JOINT DOCUMENT FROM THE TOURISM AND CONSUMER POLICY COMMITTEES REGARDING INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF CONSUMERS IN CONNECTION WITH PACKAGE TOURS. COMMITTEE AGREED TO COOPERATE WITH TOURISM COMMITTEE VIA A JOINT WORKING PARTY BUT, AT THE SUGGESTION OF USDEL, WOULD URGE MAJOR REVISION OF SURVEY INSTRUMENT TO REFLECT CONSUMER INTERESTS AND CONCERNS. NOTE: TOURISM COMMITTEE AGREED TO REVISE
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SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE, TO LIMIT SCOPE OF INITIAL STUDY TO "PACKAGED TOURS BY AIR," AND TO ESTABLISH A JOINT WORKING PARTY WITH CCP FOR FOLLOW THROUGH. USDEL AGREED TO COOPERATE. JOINT WP WILL MEET OCTOBER 24.

B. RECEIVED A SPECIAL REPORT ON ENERGY CONSERVATION IMPACT ON CONSUMERS IN A PAPER JOINTLY PREPARED BY CANADA AND THE U.S. THE COMMITTEE AGREED TO EXPLORE FURTHER HOW THE ISSUE COULD BE ACTED UPON WITH OTHER OECD ENERGY PROGRAMS SHORT OF SETTING UP A NEW JOINT WORKING PARTY. USDEL AGREED TO PREPARE AN UPDATE ON ITS EARLIER REPORT OF U.S.

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ENERGY CONSERVATION PROGRAMS.

C. RECEIVED A WRITTEN INTERIM REPORT FROM NORWAY
ON THE DURABILITY OF CONSUMER PRODUCTS (DAF/CCP/78-
79), A JOINT NORDIC PROJECT. STUDY CONTINUES AND
MORE THOROUGH REPORT IS SCHEDULED FOR NEXT MEETING.

D. RECEIVED ANNUAL REPORTS ON CONSUMER POLICY FROM
MEMBER COUNTRIES. USDEL GAVE VERBAL REPORT ON
CURRENT FEDERAL-LEVEL PROGRAMS ON BEHALF OF CONSUMERS.
WRITTEN U.S. REPORT WAS ALSO SUBMITTED AND DISTRIBUTED
TO DELEGATES.

4. CCP AGREED THAT AGENDA ITEMS FOR NOVEMBER MEETING
INCLUDE (A) A DISCUSSION OF THE ISSUE OF PRODUCT
WARRANTIES AND GUARANTEES BASED ON BRIEF STATUS REPORTS
REQUESTED OF AND AGREED TO BY UK, CANADA, AND U.S.;
(B) PER USDEL SUGGESTION, A REVIEW OF COMMITTEE PUBLICA-
TIONS, THEIR DISTRIBUTION, EFFECTIVENESS AND NEEDED
IMPROVEMENT; AND (C) FUTURE WORK OF WP-3 AND WP-5.
USDEL SUGGESTED NEED TO ANTICIPATE FUTURE WORK IN AREA
OF ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER. AT THE REQUEST OF THE
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COMMITTEE, THE U.S. ALSO AGREED TO UPDATE ITS 1975
REPORT ON THE USE OF THE UNIVERSAL PRODUCT CODE SYSTEM,
AND TO SUPPLYING ANY CURRENT INFORMATION AVAILABLE
REGARDING REGULATION COST ANALYSIS.

5. NEXT MEETINGS:

OCT 9-10 WP-3
OCT 11-12 WP-5
OCT 24 JOINT WP OF CCP/TOURISM
NOV 29-30 CCP PLENARY

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